

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 30, with the following amended paragraph.

The term “IL-17 receptor like polypeptide fragment” refers to a polypeptide that comprises a truncation at the amino terminus (with or without a leader sequence) and/or a truncation at the carboxy terminus of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, or SEQ ID NO:7, including combinations thereof, IL-17 receptor like polypeptide allelic variants, IL-17 receptor like polypeptide orthologs, IL-17 receptor like polypeptide splice variants and/or an IL-17 receptor like polypeptide variant having one or more amino acid additions or substitutions or internal deletions (wherein the resulting polypeptide is at least 6 amino acids or more in length) as compared to the IL-17 receptor like polypeptide amino acid sequence set forth in any of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5, or SEQ ID NO:7, including combinations thereof. IL-17 receptor like polypeptide fragments may result from alternative RNA splicing or from *in vivo* protease activity. For transmembrane or membrane-bound forms of an IL-17 receptor like polypeptide, preferred fragments include soluble forms such as those lacking a transmembrane or membrane-binding domain. For example, a soluble fragment of the IL-17 receptor like polypeptide is a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 which lacks amino acids 293 to 313 or a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 5 which lacks ~~nucleotides~~ amino acids 351 to 371. Preferred IL-17 receptor like polypeptide fragments retain the ability to bind to IL-17 receptor like polypeptide ligands such as IL-17E of SEQ ID NO: 23. In preferred embodiments, truncations comprise about 10 amino acids, or about 20 amino acids, or about 50 amino acids, or about 75 amino acids, or about 100 amino acids, or more than about 100 amino acids. The polypeptide fragments so produced will comprise about 25 contiguous amino acids, or about 50 amino acids, or about 75 amino acids, or about 100 amino acids, or about 150 amino acids, or about 200 amino acids. Such IL-17 receptor like polypeptide fragments may optionally comprise an amino terminal methionine residue. It will be appreciated that such fragments can be used, for example, to generate antibodies to IL-17 receptor like polypeptides.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 158, line 3, with the following amended paragraph.

At 8-10 weeks of age, 10 IL-17E ~~overexpressing~~ overexpressing transgenic mice and five non-transgenic littermates were necropsied. Liver samples from the mice were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen at the time of necropsy. RNAs were isolated from each sample using the Perfect RNA Kit (Eppendorf) according to the manufacturer's instructions and analyzed by Northern blot analysis.